

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-7, 9-16, 18-25, and 27-30 are pending in the present application. Claims 28-30 are amended. Support for the amendments to the claims can be found in the specification on page 1, line 11 and in the claims as originally filed. Reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested.

I. Claim Objections

The examiner objected to claims 28-30 as containing an acronym. Applicants have amended the claims accordingly to place the claims in better condition for appeal.

II. Asserted Anticipation Rejections and Asserted Obviousness Rejections

Applicants address the asserted anticipation rejection of claims 1-3, 5, 6, 10-12, 14, 15, 19-21, 23, 24, and 28-30 and the asserted obviousness rejection of claims 7, 16, and 25 in the Request for Pre-Appeal Brief Review, filed together on the same day with this response and the Notice of Appeal. Consideration of the Request for Pre-Appeal Brief Review is requested. Withdrawal of the rejections of the claims and allowance of the claims is also requested in view of the Request for Pre-Appeal Brief Review. Continued allowance of allowed claims 4, 13, and 22 is also requested.

III. Conclusion

Entry of this after-final amendment is requested as the amendments place the application in better condition for appeal. The subject application is patentable over the cited references and should now be in condition for allowance. The examiner is invited to call the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number if in the opinion of the examiner such a telephone conference would expedite or aid the prosecution and examination of this application.

DATE: January 16, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

/Theodore D. Fay III/

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